

NJDMAVA NEWS

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NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS



NJ Army National Guard Breaks Ground on New Facility at Fort Dix

Ground was broken on a new \$10 million addition on April 11, at 10 a.m. at the New Jersey Army National Guard Training and Training Technologies Battle Laboratory (T3BL) at Fort Dix. Congressman Jim Saxton, who helped secure the necessary funding for the project, was the guest of honor at the ceremony. Maj. Gen. Paul J. Glazar, The Adjutant General of New Jersey, hosted the event.

The T3BL is a state of the art facility for the development and fielding of simulators and innovative devices to enhance military training. The Battle Lab allows soldiers, leaders, and commanders to practice plans and strategies without the need to use actual vehicles, ammunition, or large numbers of troops. It also allows military and civilian authorities to rehearse

emergency operations and disaster plans in recreated N.J. communities before an actual situation develops.

The new addition will have eight multimedia distance-learning classrooms allowing more students to attend training at the T3BL – with the additional benefit of the rooms opening up to create a 200+ seat conference center. New training bays will accommodate M-1 Abrams and M-2 Bradley simulators which train mechanized operations and a howitzer crew trainer which allows artillery soldiers to conduct realistic firing drills indoors without ammunition. The new facility will also have four “night firing lanes” to allow small teams to use night vision devices in four environments – desert, mountain, woodland, and urban – without leaving the building.

Other simulations in the T3BL include the skills engagement trainer which allows an infantry squad to locate, track, and “fire” on targets in a number of realistic projected scenarios. The “hits” are all scored electronically without a round of ammunition being fired. The armor units in N.J. can use the Mobile Conduct of Fire Trainer, which simulates an M-1 Abrams tank, allowing the commander and crew to locate and engage targets through images projected through the tank’s scopes and vision blocks. The T3BL is also linked electronically to other simulation centers worldwide to allow simultaneous actions to occur in several locations, but to appear on a single “battlefield” screen. The T3BL is commanded by Lt. Col. Hubert D. Capps.

New Jersey Air National Guard Celebrates Earth Week

From April 23 through 27, more than 330 students, teachers and chaperones participated in Earth Week Celebrations at the Warren Grove Bombing Range managed by the 177th Fighter Wing based at Atlantic City International Airport.

Sixth grade students from Stafford Intermediate School in Stafford Township and students from the Ocean County Vocation-Technical High School Marine Academy of Science and Technology program visited the Range, located off of Route 539 in Bass River Township. Twelve 177th unit members, along with personnel from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and the Jacques Cousteau Estuarine Reserve served as the program’s instructors.

“We have a responsibility to be good

stewards of the Federal lands we manage,” noted Maj. John Elwood, 177th Environmental Management Officer. “Application of responsible environmental stewardship principles enhances our ability to conduct our mission.”

From April 23 to 26, three sixth grade classes per day from Stafford Intermediate were given a tour of three sites at the Range. The students’ saw the effects of fire ecology, a pygmy forest transect where members of the New Jersey Forest Service taught the students about the various plant and animal species found on the Range, and reforestation planting. Each class was then taken to an area on the Range where they were taught how to plant pitch pine saplings. Following the demonstration the students were di-

vided into groups of four; given shovels, saplings, and mulch and assigned areas to plant the young trees. By weeks’ end more than 4,500 saplings had been planted.

On Friday, students from the Ocean County Vocation-Technical High School Marine Academy of Science and Technology conducted the same stations, then helped staff plant trees and grasses on a revegetation project at the Range.

Dates To Remember

May 7, 11 a.m. New Jersey Vietnam Veterans Day Ceremony at the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans Memorial at Holmdel.

May 26, 10:30 a.m. Memorial Day Ceremony at the Brig. Gen. William C. Doyle Memorial Cemetery at Wrightstown.

“The New Jersey National Guard - Making New Jersey a Better Place to Live, Work, and Raise a Family.”